

REMARKS

This Response, filed in reply to the Office Action dated December 13, 2007, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of objection and rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the accompanying Claims 7-8 and 10-14 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-6 and 9-10 are canceled without prejudice. Applicants preserve the right to file a divisional application directed to non-elected inventions. Claims 7 and 8 are rewritten into an independent format. Claims 11-14 are newly added. Claims 11 and 12 each correspond to original claim 6. Support for new claims 13 and 14 may be found by the disclosure of the specification, for example, Examples 4, 5, and 7. No new matter has been introduced and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Applicants greatly thank the Examiner for taking time to discuss the claimed invention with Applicants' counsel.

Verified English Translation of Priority Document

Attached please find a certified English translation of the priority document, Korean Patent Application No. 2003-0079482.

Withdrawn Rejections

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing claim objections and claims rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and 112, raised in the previous Office Action.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the term “a receptor” in claim 5 is pointed out.

Claims 5 and 6 are canceled in the accompanying amendment. Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to remove the term “a receptor” as will be discussed below.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment renders the rejection moot and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Cao *et al.* (PNAS, 2001, 98:7443-7448, reference of record).

Without conceding the rejection, Applicants cancel claims 5 and 6, solely in order to advance the prosecution of the instant application.

As the cancellation of claims 5-6 renders the rejection moot, its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office indicates “the amino acid sequences of VH and VL regions of the antibodies set forth in claims 7-8 appear to be free of the prior art.”

In order to advance the prosecution, Applicants amend claims 7 and 8 to read “An isolated neutralizing antibody wherein said antibody comprises a VH region comprising the

amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 27 and a VL region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28, and wherein said antibody inhibits the binding of hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) to cMet” and “An isolated neutralizing antibody wherein said antibody comprises a VH region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a VL region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30, and wherein said antibody inhibits the binding of hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) to cMet,” respectively.

New claims 11-14 each refer to claims 7 or 8, and at least for their dependency, these claims are free of prior art.

The amendment to claims 7 and 8 are made to rewrite the allowable subject matter in an independent format and does not necessitate new consideration or introduce new matter.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is rendered moot by the amendment and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 18, 2008